

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/674,138

Examiner

James M Hewitt

Applicant(s)

GAFFE ET AL.

Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communication filed 12/13/04 and 1/7/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☒ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JAMES M. HEWITT
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Leo McCormick on 3/16/05.

The application has been amended as follows:

The abstract has been replaced with the following new abstract:

--ABSTRACT

A quick-coupling device having a support (18) on which a female member (20) is mounted in a manner to move between a position of retaining a male member (14E) in a position fitted into the female member (20) to a position of releasing the male member (14E) from the female member (20). This device has a lever (24) articulated to the support (18) between a rest position, wherein the lever (24) is separated from the female member (20), to a position of collaboration that allows the female member (20) to be driven toward a position to allow the male member (14E) to be released. The lever (24) includes structure (26) for guiding the male member (14E) in such a way as to encourage guidance of the male member (14E) to mate with the female member (20) when the lever (24) is in the rest position.--

On page 2 of the amendment filed 1/7/05, the phrase "Before paragraph 0001 delete the title --Quick-coupling Device, Inc-- and replace with Quick-coupling Device." has been replaced with -- Before paragraph 0001 delete the title --Quick-coupling Device, etc-- and replace with Quick-coupling Device.--.

On page 2 of the amendment filed 1/7/05, the phrase "Between paragraphs 0009 and 0010 insert Brief Description of the Invention." has been replaced with --Between paragraphs 0009 and 0010 insert Brief Description of the Drawings.--.

In claim 1 line 8, the phrase --wherein the lever is-- has been inserted before "separated".

In claim 9 line 3, both instances of "this" have been replaced with --the--.

In claim 15 line 2, the phrase "an end flange" has been replaced with --end flanges--.

Oath/Declaration

The oath or declaration is defective. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, a new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required to be submitted on or before payment of the issue fee. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because:

Applicant is claiming benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of his present application, i.e. application 10/674,138 is claiming benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of application 10/674,138.

Specification

Note that the specification filed 12/13/04, as it is not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.125, has not been entered. Note Applicant's acknowledgement of this on the first page of the supplemental amendment filed 1/7/05.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

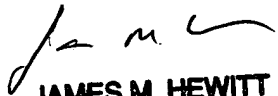
The prior art of record does not disclose, singly or in combination, a quick-coupling device as claimed in detail in claim 1, particularly the limitations "a support (18) on which the female member (20) is mounted such that it can move between a position of retaining the male member (14E) in a position fitted into the female member (20) and a position of releasing the male member (14E) from the female member (20)" and "a lever (24) articulated to the support (18) between a rest position, wherein the lever is separated from the female member (20), and a position of collaboration with the female member (20), allowing the female member (20) to be driven toward its position in which it releases the male member (14E)."

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James M Hewitt whose telephone number is 703-305-0552. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 930am-600pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Stodola can be reached on 703-308-2686. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


JAMES M. HEWITT
PRIMARY EXAMINER